

**PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**  
HIT Policy Committee – Meaningful Use Workgroup  
Hearing on Disparities Issues  
June 4, 2010

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**Panel 1: Health Literacy & Data Collection**

*Moderator: Neil Calman*

*Sara Czaja, University of Miami*

*Cynthia Solomon, MiVia*

*Geniene Wilson, The Institute for Family Health*

*Silas Buchanan, The Cave Institute*

**Sara J. Czaja, PhD**, is a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Industrial Engineering at the University of Miami. She is also the Co-Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Miami and the Director of the Center on Research and Education for Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE). CREATE is funded by the National Institute on Aging involves collaboration with the Georgia Institute of Technology and Florida State University. The focus of CREATE is on making technology more accessible, useful, and usable for older adult populations.

Dr. Czaja has extensive experience in aging research and a long commitment to developing strategies to improve the quality of life for older adults. Her research interests include: aging and cognition, caregiving, older workers, human-computer interaction, training, and functional assessment. Dr. Czaja is very well published in the field of aging and has written numerous book chapters and scientific articles. She recently co-authored a book with other members of the CREATE team concerning the design of technology for older adult populations. She is currently co-authoring a book that is focusing on the future of work and an aging population. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society and the Gerontological Society of America.

**Cynthia Solomon** is Founder and President of FollowMe, Inc., a Personal Health Record company launched in 2000. Her company specializes in developing customized Personal Health Records for populations that are considered vulnerable. Products include <http://www.mivia.org> a PHR initially developed for migrant and seasonal farm workers launched in 2003 and <http://www.healthshack.info> a PHR developed for Homeless and System Based Youth launched January 2010.

Ms. Solomon has participated as a member of the Markle Foundation *Connecting for Health* Workgroup in developing the recommendations and standards for interoperability between Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and Personal Health Records (PHRs) which was submitted to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, (DHHS) July 2004. She has presented testimony on PHR technology to the NCVHS NHII workgroup April 2005 as well as testimony to the Consumer Empowerment Workgroup –American Health Information Community on the role of Government in PHR technology (05/2006) and the Presidential IT Commission on Interoperability ” (<http://www.endingthedocumentgame.gov>.) and the IOM Roundtable on Health Literacy (3/2008)

**Geniene Wilson, MD**, ECRIP Fellow, The Institute for Family Health.

**Silas Buchanan**, The Cave Institute. The Cave Institute is a global non-profit organization committed to assisting foundations, associations, hospitals, managed care companies, health systems, faith based and community organizations as well as federal, state and local governments in resolving health disparities

based on race and ethnicity a critical issue, which ultimately effects all families, all communities, and all nations.

## **Panel 2: Culture**

*Moderator: Joshua Seidman*

*Russell Davis, National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved*

*M. Chris Gibbons, Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute*

*Dianne Hasselman, Center for Health Care Strategies*

*Deena Jang, Asia/Pacific Islander American Health Forum*

**Russell Davis, DPA, MAPT**, Co-founder and President, Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc. a 501(c)3, non-profit education, outreach policy analysis and community empowerment corporation pursuing the mission of the elimination of disparities and assurance of universal access to quality-based healthcare the optional health status outcomes. Previously, Mr. Russell was Director, Family Health Center and Family Healthcare Plan, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and adjunct Professor at Western Michigan University. He was also Associate Professor, Allied Health Sciences at Howard University Medical Center, Washington DC. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Social Sciences, and Member, Management Committee and Chair of Education, Outreach Workgroup, National H.I.T. Collaborative for the Underserved.

**M. Chris Gibbons, MD**. Dr. Gibbons is an Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute and is an Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins' Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Gibbons' is an Urban Health expert and informatician who works primarily in the area of Consumer Health informatics where he focuses on using Health Information and Communications Technologies to improve urban healthcare disparities. He is an advisor and expert consultant to several state and federal agencies and policymakers in the areas of urban health, eHealth, minority health and healthcare disparities. Dr. Gibbons has been named a Health Disparities Scholar by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Gibbon's has recently authored/edited 4 books including "Digital Homecare" and "eHealth Solutions for Healthcare Disparities". Dr. Gibbons obtained his medical degree from the University of Alabama. He then completed residency training in Preventive Medicine, a molecular oncology research fellowship and earned a Master of Public Health degree focusing in health promotion among urban and disadvantaged populations all from Johns Hopkins.

**Dianne Hasselman, MSPH**, director of quality and equality at the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), leads multi-payer/multi-stakeholder quality improvement initiatives. She is directing *Reducing Disparities at the Practice Site*, designed to strengthen the primary care infrastructure of small, under-resourced practices serving a large volume of Medicaid beneficiaries and racially/ethnically diverse populations. She manages CHCS' involvement in *Aligning Forces for Quality* initiative, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's signature effort to lift the overall quality of health care throughout 17 communities across the United States. Ms. Hasselman received her master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her bachelor's degree in communications from the University of California at San Diego.

**Deeana Jang, JD**, is the Policy Director for the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum where she heads up the Washington, DC office. Formerly, she worked as a Senior Policy Analyst working on early care and education issues at the Center for Law and Social Policy. She also worked at the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the lead senior policy analyst working to ensure that health and human services programs are accessible to immigrants with limited English skills under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She was a legal services attorney for many years representing low-income families at the San Francisco Neighborhood

Legal Assistance Foundation, Asian Law Alliance and the Asian Law Caucus. She received her BA from Oberlin College and her JD from King Hall School of Law at UC Davis.

### **Panel 3: Access**

*Moderator: George Hripcsak*

*Carolyn Clancy, Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, HHS*

*Howard Hays, MD, Indian Health Service, HHS*

*Ian Erlich, Maniilaq Association, Alaska*

*R. Scott Hawkins, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless*

*Cesar Palacios, Proyecto Salud Clinic*

**Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D.**, was appointed Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) on February 5, 2003, and reappointed on October 9, 2009. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Clancy was Director of AHRQ's Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research. Dr. Clancy, a general internist and health services researcher, is a graduate of Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Following clinical training in internal medicine, Dr. Clancy was a Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining AHRQ in 1990, she was also an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia. Dr. Clancy holds an academic appointment at the George Washington University School of Medicine (Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine) and serves as Senior Associate Editor for the journal *Health Services Research*. She serves on multiple editorial boards, including *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Annals of Family Medicine*, *American Journal of Medical Quality*, and *Medical Care Research and Review*.

Dr. Clancy is a member of the Institute of Medicine and was elected a Master of the American College of Physicians in 2004. In 2009, she was awarded the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research. Dr. Clancy's major research interests include improving health care quality and patient safety and reducing disparities in care associated with patients' race, ethnicity, gender, income, and education. As Director of AHRQ, she launched the first annual report to Congress on health care disparities and health care quality.

**Howard Hays, MD, MSPH**, is a family physician and Commissioned Officer in the US Public Health Service. A 23-year veteran of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Hays has served at IHS and tribal health care facilities in South Dakota, Minnesota, Alaska, and Arizona. He has many years' experience as a primary care provider and facility medical director, and has held other roles at a regional and national level in IHS. Dr. Hays is presently the Investment Manager for the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS), the IHS health information and electronic medical record system. In this role Dr. Hays is responsible for overseeing all software development, enhancement, deployment, and training in support of the health care activities at hundreds of IHS and tribally-operated facilities in 37 states. Dr. Hays brings his experience as a practicing clinician and informaticist to the discussion of health disparities, access, and meaningful use of health IT.

**Ian Erlich, President/CEO, Maniilaq Association.** Maniilaq, a Native nonprofit based here in Kotzebue, is a \$71 million corporation that employs 600 people in the region—more than the higher-profile Red Dog mine. Maniilaq is omnipresent in the lives of every Native and most non-natives in Northwest Alaska, providing an array of social services from hunter assistance (gasoline and ammo) to state-of-the-art clinics in every village in the region, from a maternity ward in their 17-bed hospital to counseling services in Kobuk.

Ian Erlich is married with six children. Living in Kotzebue, Alaska 26 miles above the Arctic Circle employed as the President/CEO of the Maniilaq Association for 2 years. Maniilaq is a part of the Alaska Tribal Health Compact and is a co-signer under the Indian Health Service. Maniilaq represents 12

federally recognized Tribes. Ian is Inupiaq (Eskimo is somewhat derogatory) and has served on the Kotzebue IRA council for six years, two years as the Tribal Chairman and three years on the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council as Chairman and Co-Chair. Currently serving on the Information Services Advisory Committee ISAC) for the Indian Health Service.

**R. Scott Hawkins**, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless. Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) provides top-notch, comprehensive healthcare for homeless individuals and families. A trusting relationship between patient and provider is an important part of the care we deliver. Providers seize every opportunity to engage patients and to earn trust through consistency and patience. Staff work in multi-disciplinary teams. Our goal is to provide well coordinated, high quality services.

**Cesar Palacios, MD, MPH, Executive Director, Proyecto Salud Clinic.** Dr. Cesar Palacios is the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Language Minority Health Project (MCLMHP Inc.) 'Proyecto Salud Clinic', in Wheaton, Maryland. Proyecto's mission is to provide access to high quality, affordable health care to uninsured adults in Montgomery County. In 2007 the clinic received the American Public Health Association (APHA) Latino Caucus' Meritorious Community Based Health Organization Award.

Cesar is a foreign trained physician with a master's degree in Public Health from the George Washington University. Before joining Proyecto, he worked on Indigenous Health Issues for the Pan American Health Organization; in addition, he was a consultant for the World Bank and developed a database on Human Resources for Health addressed by 31 African countries. Cesar has worked in Central America and the Caribbean on the health programs of international development organizations such as World Vision and Plan International, that seek to improve the health status of some of the most disenfranchised population groups in that region.

In 2006 Cesar joined the Latino Health Steering Committee that provides advice to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Latino Health Initiative of Montgomery County, MD. Cesar was appointed in 2006 by County Executive Douglas Duncan, and reappointed in 2009 by County Executive Ike Leggett to the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB). Montgomery Cares is a HHS program working toward providing access to primary healthcare to at least 40,000 uninsured adults in Montgomery County. Dr. Cesar Palacios graduated this year from the Leadership Montgomery program, and recently received the Healthcare Champion 2009 Governor's Award. He is a naturalized US citizen living in Silver Spring, Maryland.